

AWAC Meeting Notes

September 14, 2022

AWAC members present –Katie Lisnik, Bonnie Martinolich, Jessica Matulis, Casey Cole, KT Bernard

Staff present –Ronda Steciuk, Ann Gibbs

AWP Update – Ronda Steciuk

On May 2, 2022, Governor Mills approved S.P. 599-L.D. 1744, An Act to Increase Funding for the Animal Welfare Fund by Increasing Certain Fees. Of particular note is that the per day compensation to shelter partners housing animals at the request of the Animal Welfare Program has increased as below:

1. Dogs and Cats are now \$15 per day.
2. A female dog or cat with a litter not yet weaned is now \$18 per day.
3. Equines are now \$20 per day.
4. Livestock, fowl, and rabbits range from \$5 to \$20 per day, depending on the animal's size as determined by the Department (TBD).

This legislation went into effect on August 8, 2022.

Help Fix ME (low-cost spay and neuter) Discussion – Ronda Steciuk

See attached presentation

How are feral cats brought in by individuals? – should be brought in traps

Do we have opportunities for having several different alternative approaches to running the program? –
No the program would have to follow the process included in the rule

When do you need input on this proposal? - 2 weeks, end of September.

What is adequate funding to start the program? Do we pause the program? - Easiest is to start the program with a lump sum of funds. Already pausing the program since May and will continue during the rulemaking process and possibly longer. There are downsides for any options.

Dog Licensing Subcommittee Update – Jessica Matulis

- look at incentive and/or penalty provisions to encourage licensing
- look at other entities issuing licenses - vets as part of rabies vaccination
- online licensing system needs to be pursued
- licensing fees should be increased
- licensing fees should be the same for intact and spay/neutered dogs
- require each dog licensed to be microchipped
- proposed law changes need to be submitted by December

ACO Subcommittee Update – Katie Lisnik

- ACO jobs are not created equally across towns
- Need a county position through law enforcement agency
- Get feedback from ACOs about their positions and how they work
- Determine per capitata need to animal control
- Should AWP oversee ACOs or should it go to public safety
- Fewer better trained ACOs

New Business

Align Care is a program out of the University of Kentucky that aligns families in need to get help to care for companion animals. An informational meeting will be held on 10/13/22 at 12 noon to determine if this will work for Maine

Next meetings

October 12, 2022 from 1-3pm

November 2, 2022 from 1-3pm

December 14, 2022 from 1-3pm

Public Comment

Sharon Secovich, Spay Maine – Suggested the vets were not interested in doing more paperwork for HFM procedures, suggested promoting the AWP vanity license plate program

Stacey Ober – American Kennel Club – indicated that intact dogs have fewer health problems and should all types of dogs should have the same license fee

Motion to adjourn – Jessica Matulis, Casey seconded